Opioid Overdose Crisis

Every day, more than 115 Americans die after overdosing on opioids. The misuse of and addiction to opioids—including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl—is a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is $78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement.

How did this happen?

In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers, and healthcare providers began to prescribe them at greater rates. This subsequently led to widespread diversion and misuse of these medications before it became clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive. Opioid overdose rates began to increase. In 2015, more than 33,000 Americans died as a result of an opioid overdose, including prescription opioids, heroin, and illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid. That same year, an estimated 2 million people in the United States suffered from substance use disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers, and 591,000 suffered from a heroin use disorder.

What do we know about the opioid crisis?

Roughly 21-29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them.
- Between 8 and 12 percent develop an opioid use disorder.
- An estimated 4 to 6 percent who misuse prescription opioids transition to heroin.
- About 80 percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.
- Opioid overdoses increased 30 percent from July 2016 through September 2017 in 52 areas in 45 states.
- The Midwestern region saw opioid overdoses increase 70 percent from July 2016 through September 2017.
- Opioid overdoses in large cities increase by 54 percent in 16 states.

This issue has become a public health crisis with devastating consequences including increases in opioid misuse and related overdoses, as well as the rising incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome due to opioid use and misuse during pregnancy. The increase in injection drug use has also contributed to the spread of infectious diseases including HIV and hepatitis C. As seen throughout the history of medicine, science can be an important part of the solution resolving such a public health crisis.

What are we doing about it?

In response to the opioid crisis, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is focusing its efforts on five major priorities:
1. improving access to treatment and recovery services.
2. promoting use of overdose-reversing drugs
3. strengthening our understanding of the epidemic through better public health surveillance
4. providing support for cutting-edge research on pain and addiction
5. advancing better practices for pain management.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
April 28th, 2018

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.
Everyday is Drug Take Back Day at SMC. Take your outdated or expired medications to the Hospital Pharmacy!
Infection Control Corner

Remember:
- Stay home if you are sick!
- Do NOT come to work if you have a fever!
- Wash your hands frequently!
- Cover your cough/sneeze using your elbow!

Proper way to wear a mask

Protected Together
#VACCINESWORK

World Immunization Week
April 24th-30th

- Immunization prevents illness, disability and death from vaccine-preventable diseases including cervical cancer, diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pertussis, pneumonia, polio, rotavirus, rubella and tetanus.
- Immunization currently prevents between 2-3 million deaths every year.
- More children are being immunized worldwide than ever before.
- Global measles mortality has declined by 84%.
- Vaccines serve as a frontline defense against antimicrobial resistance.
- An estimated 19.5 million infants worldwide are still missing out on basic vaccines.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nebraska Influenza Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of influenza test +</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of RSV rapid test +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influenza-associated hospitalizations</td>
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<td>% of ED visits due to influenza</td>
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<td>% of school absence due to illness</td>
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<td>Number of influenza outbreaks reported</td>
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<td>Influenza-associated mortality— all ages</td>
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<td>Influenza-associated pediatric mortality</td>
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Synopsis for Week Ending March 17th, 2018

World Health Day
April 7th

Quiz: How much do you know about Universal Health Coverage?

1. Every years on April 7th, the World Health Organization celebrates it’s anniversary, the day its Constitution came into force. How old will WHO be this year (2018)?
   A. 30
   B. 50
   C. 70
   D. 90

2. What does universal health coverage (UHC) mean?
   A. UHC means that all individuals and communities receive the health services they need, when and where they need them.
   B. UHC prevents people from being pushed into poverty when paying for health services out of their own pockets.
   C. UHC enables everyone to access the services that address the most important causes of disease and death.
   D. UHC is about health services for individuals and populations, such as controlling mosquito breeding grounds.
   E. All the above.

3. How much of the world’s population is not able to obtain the health services they need?
   A. At least 30% of the world’s population
   B. At least 50% of the world’s population
   C. At least 70% of the world’s population
   D. At least 90% of the world’s population

4. Globally, about 100 million people are being pushed into ‘extreme poverty’ (living on $1.90 or less a day) because they have to pay for health care services.
   True
   False

5. Who has a part to play in advocating for universal health coverage?
   A. You
   B. Not-for-profit groups
   C. Health workers
   D. Media
   E. All of the above